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# Mikhail Dratvin

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**Mikhail Dratvin** (**Russian**: Михаил Иванович Дратвин; 21 November 1897, in Ekimovo – 12 December 1953, in **Moscow**) was a **Soviet lieutenant general**. Dratvin's military career began when he was drafted into the army of the Russian Empire during **World War I**. He subsequently became an expert in the fields of military intelligence and signals, teaching at a number of Soviet military academies and acting as a senior military advisor to the government of China during the **Warlord Era** and the **Second Sino-Japanese War**. He fought in **World War II** and served as a functionary of the **Soviet Military Administration in Germany** at the conclusion of the war.

## Biography   [edit source]

Mikhail Dratvin was born on 21 November 1897, in the village of Ekimovo, **Galichsky District**, Kostroma Oblast of the Russian Empire. In 1911, he graduated from a vocational school and subsequently worked in a **Saint Petersburg** telegraph company. In 1914, he acquired a telegraphist diploma. In 1916, he was drafted into the Russian army and fought in **World War I** as a functionary of the post–telegraph service. In 1918, he enlisted into the **Red Army** fighting in various campaigns of the **Russian Civil War**, including the suppression of the **Kronstadt rebellion**. At the conclusion of the war he was transferred into the intelligence branch of the army.<sup>[1]</sup>

Between 1924 and 1926 he acted as a military advisor to the signal corps of the Chinese **National Revolutionary Army** in its struggles during the **Warlord Era**. In 1931, he graduated from the **Frunze Military Academy**. Between 1931 and 1935, he commanded the signal corps of the **Moscow Military District**.

Between 1936 and 1937, he taught at the **Military Academy of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union**. In August 1937, he was appointed rector of the **Budyonny Military Academy of the Signal Corps**. By November he had to leave his post a he was dispatched to China as a military advisor.<sup>[1]</sup> At the time China was engaged in the **Second Sino-Japanese War**, receiving aid from both Germany and the Soviet Union. The May 1938 departure of **Alexander von Falkenhausen** mission of advisors marked the beginning of the end for the **Sino-German cooperation**. **Komkor** Dratvin thus became the most senior military advisor of **Chiang Kai-shek**, until he was replaced by **Aleksandr Cherepanov** in the June of the same year.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1939, Dratvin became the supervisor of 11th special department of the General Staff overseeing the recruitment of advisors for China and **Spain**. In December he became a functionary of the **People's Defense Commissariat of U.S.S.R.**. In April 1941, he returned to the Military Academy of the General Staff as a staff member.<sup>[1]</sup> On 10 July, he became the commander of the **275th Rifle Division** which was engaged in the **World War II**.<sup>[3]</sup> The 275th was formed at **Novomoskovsk**, part of the **Odessa Military District**. Its basic order of battle included the 980th, 982nd, and the 984th Rifle Regiments, as well as the 807th Artillery Regiment. As a result of the German advance, the division was relocated to **Novorossiysk** in the **North Caucasus Military District** while still incomplete around 7 August. In late August it was assigned to the **Southern Front**'s **6th Army**. The division fought in the **Barvenkovo–Lozovaya Offensive** in January 1942, after which it transferred to the **37th Army**.<sup>[4]</sup> On 11 January 1942, Dratvin became the deputy commander of the **37th Army (Soviet Union)**.<sup>[3]</sup> On 1 September 1943, he was promoted to **lieutenant general**. From January until June 1945 he commanded the **47th Rifle Corps**.<sup>[1]</sup>

In June 1945, Dratvin became the deputy of the head of the **Soviet Military Administration in Germany**. In 1949, he became the head of the foreign relations department of the **Main Intelligence Directorate**. In January 1953, Dratvin became the deputy rector of the **Military Diplomatic Academy** in Moscow. Dratvin died on 12 December 1953, he was buried at the **Novodevichy Cemetery**. Throughout his career he received 4 **Orders of the Red Banner**, 3 **Orders of Lenin**, an **Order of Kutuzov** 2nd class, an **Order of Suvorov** as well as an **Order of the Patriotic War** 1st class.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Footnotes   [edit source]

- ↑  ***<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> <sup>d</sup> <sup>e</sup>*** Alexeev, Kolpakidi & Kochik 2012, pp. 288–289.
- ↑  ***Chudodeev 2017***, pp. 27–29.
- ↑  ***<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup>*** Main Personnel Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of the Soviet Union 1964, p. 240.
- ↑  ***Forczyk 2015***, p. 70.

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